

## CANAL COMMISSION REPORT.

## GOVERNOR BLACK MAKES PUBLIC THE DOCUMENT.

SPECIAL COUNSEL APPOINTED TO AID ATTORNEY-GENERAL IN DECIDING WHETHER JUDICIAL PROCEEDING SHALL FOLLOW.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

Albany, Aug. 4.—The report of the Commission appointed by Governor Black to investigate the expenditure of the \$9,000,000 voted by the people for the improvement of the State canals is a strong document—strong because it is impartial and places the blame where it belongs.

Shortly after it was made public to-day Governor Black took himself to Lake Champlain, to visit Congressman Foote. Superintendent of Public Works Aldridge is absent at Block Island, and State Engineer Adams returned to Utica to-day.

In tone the report is judicial, the Commission summing up the evidence on both sides with care and absence of political bias. The Commission personally inspected the work at the most important points, accompanied by competent engineers, and reports as the result:

"We have not found it possible in all cases in which it seemed to us that money had been wasted through insufficient preparation, unskillful work, wrong classification, or improper measurements, to reduce the amounts to a certainty or to attempt to report amounts in every case where the evidence makes them incapable of ascertainment."

The Commission considers the various difficulties and hindrances to the work, and says that during the investigation it has frequently been confronted with the necessity of determining the responsibility for abuses discovered.

It says that upon the Superintendent of Public Works solely rests the responsibility for making the contracts, and for the character, extent and cost of the advertising; for the exercise of his power to cancel and reject bids, for security required of contractors, etc.; but he is not responsible, necessarily, for the acts of the State Engineer's department. Then it says:

"Although he cannot make payments without the engineer's certificate, he is not compelled to pay in accordance therewith without question. It is the payment which makes error or wrong in the engineer's certificate effectual to injure the State."

He is charged with being responsible for the loss to the State, caused by the payments made on the contracts. Any other view would render his large force of inspectors unnecessary, and the cost of their maintenance wasteful expenditure of money. Had competent inspectors been employed, faulty work by the engineers would not have escaped. He, in common with State Engineer Adams, is responsible. The Commission removes the possibility of making State Engineer Adams the scapegoat, and fixes the responsibility also on Superintendent Aldridge.

Considerable space is devoted to the subject of breaks, some of which, the report says, "have occurred upon portions of the canals upon which no work of improvement has been done, and some have occurred upon portions where work has been prosecuted. The latter, in our opinion, are due in some instances to lack of sufficient care or skill on the part of the engineers. Upon contract No. 2, in the city of Syracuse, a break occurred which should have been avoided."

The failure to make public the prices of the contracts, when let, is criticised. In some instances, the report says, there was considerable delay, and then adds:

"Delay in awarding is unnecessary, and may be made use of for improper purposes."

Competency was not made the test in selecting inspectors, and there was a dual system of inspection which resulted in much of the work being duplicated. Through bungling quantity sheets it is pointed out the amount of rock excavation allowed contractors was nearly 200,000 cubic yards greater than it should have been. The preliminary survey was costly and proved of little value. Wasteful and extravagant departure from the intent of the contract and specifications is also dwelt upon.

The Commission "found on all the divisions material classified as rock which was loosed by picks and, which undoubtedly could be more cheaply ploughed than blasted."

The amount which the Commission fixes as that improperly expended was not less than \$1,000,000. The cost of finishing the work will be nearly \$14,000,000.

The force of men allowed the State Engineer was not adequate to the performance of all his duties, the report says. He is a member of many boards, and has many duties imposed upon him, not generally understood. He should have funds sufficient to enable him to secure the best and most experienced engineering talent to aid in planning and supervising the whole work.

The work should be carried to completion, the Commission believes.

## REFERRED TO ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Governor Black has referred to Attorney-General Hancock the report of the Commission, together with the testimony taken at that investigation, and has requested him to thoroughly examine the documents, to make a complete investigation as to the existence of evidence showing wrongdoing on the part of any individual, who has been in any way connected with the work, and to report at the earliest practicable day whether judicial proceedings should be instituted in compliance with the demands of justice.

Governor Black is determined that if wrong has been done it shall be righted, and that if guilt exists there shall be punishment. The report of the Commission is not deemed specifically conclusive.

The documents were transmitted to-day to the Attorney-General, with the following communication:

August 3, 1898.  
The Hon. Theodore E. Hancock, Attorney-General, Albany, N. Y.

The Commissioners appointed under Chapter 16 of the Laws of 1898 have filed with the Governor their report and the evidence upon which it is based. The testimony is voluminous, consisting of nearly thirty thousand words. The fact and conclusions stated in the report, while general in character, present a condition which may become the subject of judicial investigation, and, if such proceedings should be instituted, the nature thereof, I shall be glad to designate counsel to assist you in the examination of the matters submitted, in any judicial proceedings which may be hereafter begun. If, on the other hand, you determine to prosecute, that prosecution should be prompt and thorough. You may rely upon the support and co-operation of this Department. Respectfully yours,

FRANK S. BLACK,

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

SPECIAL COUNSEL.

This is Attorney-General Hancock's reply:

Albany, August 3.

The Hon. Frank S. Black, Governor of the State of New-York, Albany, N. Y.

My Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your communication of to-day, in which reference is

made to the testimony and report submitted to you by the Commissioners appointed to investigate the work recently done in enlarging and improving the canals of the State, and requesting that the report and evidence be examined by me, suggesting also that you would be glad to designate counsel to assist in the examination of the matters submitted.

The evidence transmitted covers the investigation made by the Commission for a period of several months, and such time and labor will be necessary for the purpose of reading and arranging the testimony. As the duties devolving upon the Attorney-General's office are somewhat exacting, requiring the entire time of my official force, I would respectfully request that you designate counsel to make the desired examination. Very truly yours,

T. E. HANCOCK, Attorney-General.

Governor Black, just before leaving the Executive Chamber at noon to-day, officially named Judge Edwin Countryman, of this city, to act as special counsel with the Attorney-General in examining the report of the Canal Commission, for the purpose designated in the letter of the Governor to the Attorney-General.

(For detailed Canal Report see Page Five.)

## SHOCKED BY LIGHTNING.

## A HEAVY THUNDERSTORM DAMAGES CAMP TOWNSEND.

LIEUTENANT WILSON, OF THE ENGINEERS, INJURED—SCARBOROUGH'S RAILROAD STATION AND POSTOFFICE DESTROYED—OTHER WESTCHESTER PLACES VISITED.

Camp Townsend can get up a pretty good thunderstorm on occasion, but the one that passed over camp on Wednesday night has not its parallel in camp history, and it will probably linger in the minds of the engineers until they see one more terrible in Porto Rico, when it will be used as a unit of measure in gauging the fury of the tropical storm. The day had been pleasantly cool and cloudy, and while a thunderstorm in the night was a possibility, no one thought it would be severe. It began with mutterings of thunder in the distance, which were not particularly noticed. But about 11 o'clock it broke in all its fury. It was terrible in its intensity, but grandly beautiful. The lightning was almost incessant and the thunder uninterrupted. One could count five slowly through the duration of the ordinary flashes, and some of the longer ones as much as ten was counted. Once fifteen was counted, but that time there was a short break of just a fraction of a second between two flashes. With the thunder it was impossible to count more than three before the hills and valleys were reverberating with another report. Sleep was impossible, and every one in camp was awake.

A bolt of lightning struck one of two trees just behind the tent of Chaplain J. Warner Fobes. Electric wires pass from the tree into the chaplain's tent, for he and Surgeons Walter D. Webb and Charles I. Proben, whose tents are in the same row, have electric lights. Along these wires the lightning passed into the chaplain's tent. It went down the pole in the rear of the tent, cracking it and breaking a mirror to pieces, and in some way it reached the front pole, which it served in the same manner, breaking another mirror that hung at the entrance to the tent. Chaplain Fobes had been standing in the middle of the tent floor between the two poles just a few moments before, and had just wrapped a woollen blanket about him and sought rest on his cot. The bolt stunned him for a few moments, but its effects soon passed off. The woollen blanket had probably insulated him somewhat from the electricity.

From Chaplain Fobes's tent the lightning passed into Surgeon Walter D. Webb's tent. Dr. Webb, however, was not in camp at the time. He had gone to the city, and, having missed the early night train, did not get to camp until the storm was over. He was glad enough afterward that he had not been in time to catch the first train. There were evidences enough that the lightning had been in his tent when he got there. The fuses in the electric lamp had been burned out and there was a hole in the bottom of the globe.

Surgeon Proben was in his tent, however, when the electricity got there. It came down the rear pole, broke a mirror hanging on it, cracked the wooden handle of a razor stand hanging under the mirror, shattered a table standing near the pole, and evidently passed out along the floor, for splinters were turned up in some of the boards. He felt the shock severely, and when he tried to move he found the lower half of his body paralyzed, and it was five minutes before he could get up.

HAD TO SEND FOR A SURGEON.

Meanwhile Lieutenant H. C. Wilson's tent in the line officers' row was struck. He and Lieutenant William G. Mitchell were standing talking together when Lieutenant Wilson fell over. Nothing was disturbed in the tent, and Lieutenant Mitchell did not feel the shock at all. But Lieutenant Wilson had received enough for a surgeon's attention, and Major Louis L. Seaman was promptly on hand. He found Lieutenant Wilson suffering from the shock, with his right side partially paralyzed. He was longer in coming out of it than Surgeon Proben had been, and remained in quarters on his cot all day yesterday. For a time he could not see out of his right eye, but the sight is coming back, and he is so much improved that he will probably be around again to-day almost as well as if lightning had never come his way.

There were a lot of rather humorous tricks the lightning played, although they did not seem at all funny at the time. First Lieutenant J. G. Livingston, officer of the guard, was walking through the street when he was knocked down, and he himself falling in the rounds of the camp when the guns were knocked out of the hands of most of them, and there were a lot of reports about individuals having been knocked down by the lightning. Lasted two hours, and a large quantity of water fell in that time. But yesterday was hot and muggy, with another thunderstorm, a little one, after dinner.

USED A PUSH CART AS A POSTOFFICE.

There was a terrific electric storm in the Sing Sing part of Westchester County early yesterday. The rain fell in torrents, the roar of the thunder sounded like the firing of big guns, and the flashes of lightning were blinding.

At the height of the storm the Scarborough station of the Hudson River Railroad was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. In the building was also the Scarborough postoffice.

The station agent, Mr. Elliott P. Shepard, and Mr. W. W. Law, and the Webb family. The building was a neat frame structure, and was almost new, having been entirely renovated a short time ago.

The ordinary mail matter in the postoffice was also destroyed, but no registered letters or money were burned, as Postmaster Neide takes the valuable property to his home every night for safe keeping. The damage will amount to about \$5,000.

The residents of Scarborough yesterday received their mail from a pushcart. Postmaster Neide opened his office in the cart, which he used to receive his mail from the trains, and the people went up to the vehicle for their letters.

There were a number of trees hit by the lightning in Sing Sing and destroyed, but no further damage was done.

The country home of William Ebling, the New-York brewer, at Shell Island, Port Chester, was struck by lightning in the storm. The members of the family were aroused from sleep by a terrific report, but were not hurt. They found that the bolt had knocked down the chimney and damaged the roof, but otherwise the building was unharmed.

## ARMY COMMANDERS PROTEST.

## FEAR EPIDEMIC OF FEVER.

## GENERAL SHAFTER AND COMMANDERS INSIST UPON WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM CUBA.

Santiago de Cuba, Aug. 3 (delayed in transmission).—Summoned by Major-General Shafter, a meeting was held here this morning at headquarters, and in the presence of every commanding and medical officer of the Fifth Army Corps General Shafter read a cable message from Secretary Alger, ordering him, on the recommendation of Surgeon-General Sternberg, to move the army into the interior, to San Luis, where it is healthier.

As a result of the conference General Shafter will insist upon the immediate withdrawal of the army from Cuba.

As an explanation of the situation the following letter from Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, commanding the 1st Cavalry, to General Shafter, was handed by the latter to the correspondent of The Associated Press for publication:

"Major-General Shafter,

Sir: In a meeting of the general and medical officers called by you at the Palace this morning we were all, as you know, unanimous in view of what should be done with the army. To keep us here, in the opinion of every officer commanding a division or a brigade, will simply involve the destruction of thousands. There is no possible reason for not shipping practically the entire command North at once.

"Yellow fever cases are very few in the cavalry division where I command one of the two brigades, and not one true case of yellow fever has occurred in this division, except among the men sent to the hospital at Siboney, where they have, I believe, contracted it.

WHOLE COMMAND WEAKENED.

"But in this division there have been 1,500 cases of malarial fever. Not a man has died from it, but the whole command is so weakened and shattered as to be ripe for doing like rotten sheep when a real yellow fever epidemic, instead of a fake epidemic, like the present, strikes us, as it is bound to if we stay here at the height of the sickness season, August and the beginning of September. Quarantine against malarial fever is much like quarantining against the toothache.

"All of us are certain, as soon as the authorities at Washington fully appreciate the conditions of the army, to be sent home. If we are kept here it will in all human possibility mean an appalling disaster, for the surgeons here estimate that over half the army, if kept here during the sickly season, will die.

"This is not only terrible from the standpoint of the individual lives lost, but it means ruin from the standpoint of military efficiency of the flower of the American Army, for the great bulk of the Regulars are here with you. The sick list, large though it is, exceeding four thousand, affords but a faint index of the debilitation of the army. Not 10 per cent are fit for active work.

"Six weeks on the North Maine coast, for instance, or elsewhere where the yellow fever germ cannot possibly propagate, would make us all as fit as fighting cocks, able as we are and eager to take a leading part in the great campaign against Havana in the fall, even if we are not allowed to try Porto Rico.

CAN BE MOVED WITH SAFETY.

"We can be moved North, if moved at once, with absolute safety to the country, although, of course, it would have been infinitely better if we had been moved North or to Porto Rico two weeks ago. If there were any object in keeping us here we would face yellow fever with as much indifference as we face bullets. But there is no object in it.

"The four immune regiments ordered here are sufficient to garrison the city and surrounding towns, and there is absolutely nothing for us to do here, and there has not been since the city surrendered. It is impossible to move into the interior. Every shifting of camp doubles the sick rate in our present weakened condition, and, anyhow, the interior is rather worse than the coast, as I have found by actual reconnaissance. Our present camps are as healthy as any camps at this end of the island can be.

"I write only because I cannot see our men, who have fought so bravely and who have endured extreme hardship and danger so uncomplainingly, go to destruction without striving so far as lies in me to avert a doom as fearful as it is unnecessary and undesired. Yours respectfully,

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

"Colonel Commanding First Brigade."

After Colonel Roosevelt had taken the initiative, all the American general officers united in a "round robin" addressed to General Shafter. It reads:

COMMANDERS URGE MOVING.

"We, the undersigned officers commanding the various brigades, divisions, etc., of the Army of Occupation in Cuba, are of the unanimous opinion that this army should be at once taken out of the island of Cuba and sent to some point on the northern coast of the United States; that it can be done without danger to the people of the United States; that yellow fever in the Army at present is not epidemic; that there are only a few sporadic cases; but that the Army is disabled by malarial fever to the extent that its efficiency is destroyed, and that it is in a condition to be practically entirely destroyed by an epidemic of yellow fever, which is sure to come in the near future.

"We know from the reports of competent officers and from personal observations that the Army is unable to move into the interior, and that there are no facilities for such a move if attempted, and that it could not be attempted until too late. Moreover, the best medical authorities of the island say that with our present equipment we could not live in the interior during the rainy season without losses from malarial fever, which is almost as deadly as yellow fever.

"MUST MOVE OR PERISH."

"This Army must be moved at once, or perish. As the Army can be safely moved now, the persons responsible for preventing such a move will be responsible for the unnecessary loss of many thousands of lives.

"Our opinions are the result of careful personal observation, and they are also based on the unanimous opinion of our medical officers with the Army, who understand the situation absolutely.

"J. FORD KENT.

"Major-General Volunteers, commanding First Division, Fifth Corps.

"Major-General Volunteers, commanding Provisional Division.

"ADNAH R. CHAFFEE.

"Major-General Commanding Third Brigade, Second Division.

"SAMUEL S. SUMMER.

"Brigadier-General Volunteers, commanding First Brigade, Cavalry.

"WILL LUDLOW.

Continued on second page.

## SAGASTA DELAYS PEACE.

## CONFERS WITH PRESIDENTS OF CHAMBERS.

## CONSULTATIONS HELD WITH VIEW OF ASCERTAINING OPINIONS OF ALL PARTIES.

Madrid, Aug. 4.—Premier Sagasta conferred to-day with the presidents of both chambers of the Cortes, and is now conferring with Marshal Martinez Campos and the Duke of Tetuan, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the last Cabinet of the late Señor Canovas.

Until the official account of the peace negotiations is published, the utmost secrecy will be observed.

The Spanish Cabinet met this afternoon, the Queen Regent presiding, and the peace proposals were discussed. Apparently no definite decision was arrived at.

The consultations between the Premier and the presidents of the Chambers are said to be really of a national character, with a view of ascertaining the opinions of all parties.

The Government has not yet entered upon any engagement regarding terms for concluding the war with the United States. The Cabinet will follow the advice of the party leaders and will leave to the Crown the liberty of choosing new advisers.

All the leaders consulted thus far have observed the strictest reserve, with the exception of Señor Romero y Robledo, the leader of the Weylerite party, who declares himself in favor of continuing the war.

The Queen Regent has summoned several generals for consultation.

"La Correspondencia de Espana" says the Government has no present intention of convoking the Cortes. "El Correo," the Ministerial organ, says that, in addition to the Monarchist chiefs, the Queen Regent will consult Professor Salmeron, the Republican leader, and an influential Carlist chief.

WHY SAGASTA IS SO SLOW.

London, Aug. 5.—The Madrid correspondent of "The Times" says:

"Though peace is regarded as assured, it may not be attained so quickly as is generally expected. Señor Sagasta objects to being hustled, and insists upon everything being done in a quiet, orderly and dignified manner. He considers it necessary to have full and satisfactory explanations as to all doubtful points in order to enable him best to protect the national interests against the aggressive tendencies of the Washington Cabinet.

"He has also to examine very minutely the exigencies of the internal situation and home politics, so as to avoid popular dissatisfaction and political unrest. The Spanish people, though sincerely desirous of peace, are disposed to admire this hesitancy and tenacious holding out till the last, although aware that it implies greater sacrifices.

"As an illustration of this feeling, while General Toral is blamed for capitulating at Santiago, Captain-General Augusti, continuing a hopeless resistance at Manila, bids fair to be a popular hero.

"It would be premature to suppose that the political consultations now proceeding foreshadow the resignation of the Liberal Cabinet, when peace is concluded. The Conservatives have so constantly and loyally supported Sagasta throughout the war that no factious opposition need be feared from them."

The Madrid correspondent of "The Daily Mail" says:

"The Government has not yet answered the American note, nor received President McKinley's reply to the explanations asked for by Señor Sagasta. The Premier said to-day that the Government would reply to the American demands early next week.

"In consulting the party leaders Sagasta is following the precedents of Castelar, when the Virginian affair threatened war with the United States. It is not probable that he will resign as a result of the conferences.

"The Premier is inclined to rush the treaty through without convoking the Cortes, trusting to get a bill of indemnity next month; but the party leaders are not likely to consent to this course."

SECRETARY DAY LOOKS FOR PEACE.

Washington, Aug. 4.—A long conference between the President and Secretary Day and Secretary Long was held this forenoon. Secretary Day, it may be said, has full confidence that there will be little serious delay and bickering over the closing of the details of peace. A fortnight ago he was not so confident, being disposed to fear Spanish procrastination and haggling over details. To-day he expressed the opinion personally, that he believed there was no longer danger on that score, and said that policy seemed to have been abandoned under the stress of circumstances. This expression goes to confirm other indications that peace is near at hand. Those who have gone over the ground and conferred with the officials express the belief that the outcome of peace is very nearly attained. One Administration public man who talked with the President and others to-day predicted that a preliminary agreement which would practically settle the war would be effected within a week.

INTEREST OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS.

Washington, Aug. 4.—Baron Speck von Sternburg, in charge of the German Embassy in the absence of Ambassador Von Holleben, was at the State Department to-day conferring with the officials. The German authorities—and, indeed, all the foreign representatives here—are naturally greatly interested in the progress of the peace negotiations, and they are keeping their governments fully advised of the various stages. But while there is no move to take any part in the negotiations or to exercise an influence on the results. Neither is there any apparent anxiety on the part of other European Powers in the choice of the French Ambassador to conduct the negotiations on behalf of Spain. The British Embassy officials are still absent from the city, and so far as can be learned they have shown no activity whatever in connection with the peace negotiations. The Italian

Continued on second page.

## WAR NEWS OF TO-DAY.

A Madrid dispatch says that Señor Sagasta is holding consultations with prominent Spaniards on the subject of peace, with the view of ascertaining the opinions of all parties; the Premier wishes to examine into every detail of the questions involved.

The Spanish Government's final reply to the demands of this country is expected in Washington to-day.

General Miles is waiting for more troops before starting the general advance on San Juan, Porto Rico; the Spaniards are expected to make their first stand at Abonitas, General Otsogo's stronghold.

Colonel San Martin, the Spanish commander of Ponce, Porto Rico, who abandoned the city on the approach of the Americans, was court-martialed and shot at San Juan; Lieutenant-Colonel Puliz committed suicide.

REPLY EXPECTED TO-DAY.

LITTLE OCCASION FOR DELAY BY THE SPANISH CABINET—YESTERDAY'S CONFERENCE INCONCLUSIVE.

Washington, Aug. 4.—There was an expectation at the State Department that perhaps toward the close of the afternoon some word might be received from Spain through the French Ambassador in reply to the President's deliverance yesterday on the subject of peace conditions. This expectation was based upon the fact that the terms themselves had not been modified in any essential point, so that there was little occasion for prolonged discussion by the Spanish Cabinet, which was presumed to

have thoroughly considered this matter before rendering the first reply.

However, it was perceived from the news dispatches that the Madrid Cabinet meeting had been inconclusive, so it was then presumed that nothing definite could be expected before tomorrow noon at the earliest.

There is a confident belief among the Administration officials that the Spanish Government will accept the terms laid down by the President, and that the delay of a day or two in recognizing the inevitable is to be accounted for by reasons of Spanish international policies, which would not countenance an unrelenting submission without at least a display of a purpose to improve the terms. This, however, cannot be accomplished, and the French Ambassador, who is well aware of that fact, unquestionably has so informed the Spanish Government, though that Government has preserved its record in good form to meet the criticism of its political opponents by submitting the counter-proposition presented yesterday by M. Cambon to the President.

There is no doubt that the peace negotiations are proceeding to the entire satisfaction of the Presidents and members of the Cabinet. A statement to that effect was made to-day by a high official of the Administration, who expresses the belief that within a very short time there would be a complete cessation of hostilities. The conference yesterday afternoon at the White House, in which the President, M. Cambon and Secretary Day participated, was devoted almost entirely to a discussion of details which are regarded by the President as unimportant, and hence the requests of the French Ambassador for the most part will be acceded to. The questions upon which the Spanish Government have so far asked for additional information are regarded by the Administration as perfectly legitimate and proper, and up to this time nothing has occurred to bring in question the sincerity of their motives. Under the circumstances, it is the purpose of the President to deal with them in a spirit of perfect fairness, and to make the road to peace as smooth for them as the rights and dignity of this Government will permit, and to this end unimportant concessions will be readily granted.

NO CAUSE FOR FURTHER DELAY.

It was midnight last night before the concession of the President regarding the meeting-place of the peace commissioners was communicated to the Madrid authorities, so that, allowing for the difference in time, it was impossible for an answer to have been received this morning. However, it is expected that the delay will not be long, probably at most not more than a day or two, and that the answer when it comes will be found to be an unconditional acceptance of the terms as they now stand. The French Ambassador was not disappointed in the result of his meeting with the President yesterday. He realized that the Spanish plea for an abatement of the conditions would be useless, so far as it touched the vital points of the demands. He undoubtedly had reached that conviction at the second interview, when the President, in going over with him the terms he proposed as a basis for peace, had impressed strongly upon him the determination of our Government not to indulge in haggling for advantage; not to be equipped with two sets of terms, maximum and minimum conditions, but to lay down at once the propositions that the United States deemed to be fair and just as a basis for peace, and, having done so, to adhere to them firmly, so far as all matters of principle were concerned.

NEW-YORK TROOPS FOR HONOLULU.

San Francisco, Aug. 4.—The troops to go to Honolulu Saturday on the transport Charles Nelson have been designated. They are the following companies of the 1st New-York Volunteers: I, Captain McIntyre; K, Captain Barker; L, Captain Sheldon; M, Captain Tompkins, and C, Captain Roach. These companies will be accompanied by a sergeant-major, a quartermaster-sergeant and hospital steward and one assistant surgeon, Captain Ashley. Major Chase will be in command of the troops. The total number of officers and men is 556.

## PORTO RICO INVASION.

## GENERAL STONE ADVANCING NORTHWARD.

## SPANIARDS EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR FIRST STAND AT GENERAL OTEGA'S STRONGHOLD, ABONITAS.

Ponce, Aug. 2, via St. Thomas, D. W. I., Aug. 3 (delayed in transmission).—The plan of campaign is not fully determined upon, but the natural strength of the Spanish position at Abonitas and the character of the defensive works erected there necessitates a flank movement. The turning movement was begun to-day, when General Brooke landed 3,000 men at Arroyo, sixty miles east of here. From there he can strike the military road leading to San Juan, at Cayey, beyond Abonitas. This will compel the Spanish commander, General Otega, who has a great reputation, to abandon his stronghold or be caught between two fires.

It is possible that a second column may move on his left flank also, in which case the present advance on his front is only a feint.

General Stone is making a dashing reconnaissance north, to the direction of Arecibo. He went into Adjuntas last night with five men and four correspondents, and to-day he pushed on along the Utuado road as far as Adjuntas. The road rises west of the Cayey range, and is rough, but practicable for cavalry and infantry.

If it is found passable at Utuado, a light column of troops may be pushed across to the north coast, and strike in on San Juan on the left flank. But, if General Brooke is successful,

it is probable that General Otega will find Abonitas untenable, in which case the whole of the Army, after effecting a junction, will move on the main road.

AMERICANS WELCOMED EVERYWHERE.

General Stone met with a most enthusiastic welcome from the natives in the villages and towns he passed through. Women and children strewn the streets with flowers, and as he passed houses and town halls they flew homemade American flags.

Behind him moves Company C of the 24 Wisconsin Regiment, under Lieutenant Bedneer. The enemy, numbering about four hundred, preceded him. The enemy has for hours been in full retreat.

The American advance has not been extended beyond Juan Diaz, though reconnoitring parties have touched Coamo.

General Garretson's brigade and the batteries are camped just beyond Ponce.

A general advance will not be ordered until all of General Miles's plans are perfected; but, when the advance is once begun, it will be very rapid.

The fleet will bombard San Juan and make other diversions to keep the enemy busy at every point.

In the harbor of Ponce and at Arroyo, on board ship, are the 3d Illinois, the 1st Ohio, the 4th Pennsylvania, the 5th and 19th Regulars and the 32d Michigan.

There are constant alarms at the outposts, but there has been no fighting as yet.

SPANISH COMMANDER SHOT.

COLONEL SAN MARTIN, WHO EVACUATED PONCE, IS EXECUTED FOR COWARDICE.

Madrid, Aug. 4.—An official dispatch from San Juan de Porto Rico says that Colonel San Martin, who was in command of the Spanish garrison at Ponce, has been court-martialed and shot for abandoning the place without resistance.

Lieutenant-Colonel Puliz, the second in command, committed suicide.

Ponce, Porto Rico, Aug. 3 (delayed in transmission).—Colonel San Martin, the Spanish commander, who evacuated this place without orders, is a prisoner at San Juan de Porto Rico. He will be tried for cowardice, and will probably be executed.

MILES WAITING FOR TRO